

BARNET – DANVILLE – PEACHAM – WALDEN  
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union  
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PEACHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
Monday November 10, 2014

Present:

Board: Mark Clough, Wynne Browne, Jenny Land Mackenzie  
Administration: Mat Forest, Judy Ross, Melissa Laurita Kohl  
Public: Rick Scholes, Donna Gaston

Meeting called to order by Mark Clough at 6:00P.M.

1. Approval of Minutes:

- (a) Mark moves to approve the minutes of October 13, 2014 and October 27, 2014. Jenny seconds. So moved.

2. Introduction of Melissa Laurita Kohl:

- (a) Due to an interest in keeping the municipal and school budgets separate, Rick Scholes reported that the Selectboard will not pay for Melissa's time with the School Board. The School Board will pay Melissa directly.

3. Public Input

- (a) Rick Scholes brings a message from the Selectboard regarding the bulletin board that was built at the school for public notices. The total cost is \$260 and the Selectboard will pay \$100 for the board.
- (b) Judy says that the \$100 from the Selectboard is greatly appreciated and the school will pay the rest.

4. Administrative Reports:

***See attached reports for additional information.***

- (a) Business Manager Report – including financial chart of accounts (line item results) for FY2014 finish
  - i. Current Fiscal Year
    - A. Tuition –We have a listing of 15 middle school and 28 high school students;
      - 3 still have not submitted vouchers. Nichole is pursuing that.
      - 2 we are questioning residency; a note is attached to their vouchers for non-public.
    - B. Special education placements are within budget, possibly with a \$7,000 savings, but typically any excess costs are not billed until the end of the year, so that may be used up.
  - ii. Report includes additional information on: State Reporting and Compliance, Federal Grants, Negotiations/Centralization, Budget
- (b) Superintendent's Report – including progress on CCSU synergy w/ specialists supporting the school
  - i. Transportation
    - A. Mat has been working with the bus company to have universal policies. There has been a lot of productive dialogue.
  - ii. 504 Policy
    - A. Section 504 is a disabilities/civil rights statute.
    - B. Mat went into detail about 504 plans and how they are currently developed and implemented within the Supervisory Union schools.
  - iii. MTSS (Multi-tiered System of Support)
    - A. In VT, Special Ed is one of the greatest drivers of the increase in cost in education. Even though the number of students has not been rising, the number of paras has increased tremendously.
    - B. Mat discussed the difference between NH and VT: in NH, general ed teachers were allowed to provide special ed services through tier 2 services. In VT, legally you cannot do that – you need a para. NH was able to treat everyone and have better services. Mat believes this is a major problem and would be a great thing for us to

- lobby about.
- iv. Report includes additional information on 504 Policy, Conference, Curriculum Development, MTSS, Transportation, and School Photos.
- (c) Principal's Report – including improvements in student learning:
  - i. Cafeteria Refrigerator
    - A. Jerry and Diana Senturia are part of the collaborators group. They have been working behind the scenes to replace the refrigerator that is failing in the cafeteria. Jerry and Diana are paying to repair an extra fridge from the Peacham Cafe that did not end up getting used. The school will have that refrigerator. Diana is like the school's fairy godmother.
  - ii. Principal Survey
    - A. Judy sent out a link to the updated principal survey in last weeks newsletter. She will be sending it to staff and community members, too.
  - iii. Preschool
    - A. There is new legislation offering all students access to preschool. Legislation goes into effect for the 2015/2016 school year.
    - B. Judy is examining how this will impact Peacham. Peacham already provides preschool. There is a preschool expansion federal grant that could possibly subsidize some of the expenses for staff, planning, and retrofitting a place.
    - C. Judy will try to find out what the census is in terms of how many kids might be coming into a preschool program for Peacham.
  - iv. Cirkus Smirkus
    - A. It was great. Kids were really focused. It only cost our school \$100. The teachers made that happen.
  - v. PES/ PTF Halloween Event
    - A. Wynne would like to thank the PTF for the Halloween program.
  - vi. Report includes additional information on MTSS Multi-Tiered System of Supports: Academic, MTSS-Behavior, Curriculum Development, Create an Educationally & Fiscally Responsible Budget, Circus Smirkus, PES/PTF Halloween, Safe Routes to School, VRP Fall Conference, the Vermont Rural Partnership Grant, Report Cards, and Shed
- (d) CCSU Special Services Report
  - i. Report includes additional information on Annual Service Plan Report to the AOE, Assistive Technology project, Professional Development, Section 504, and Paraeducator Evaluation Process

## 5. Other Business

- (a) Donna Gaston presentation on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Program
  - i. The grant program is called Extended Learning Opportunities (E.L.O.).
  - ii. Donna gave an overview of the program and how it worked for all four schools, not just Peacham.
  - iii. E.L.O. Goals:
    - A. to improve academic performance
    - B. demonstrate 21<sup>st</sup> century skills of collaboration and problem solving
    - C. to increase the use of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills
    - D. to increase individual health and wellness
  - iv. Activities include gardening, math games, dance, cooking classes, reading, Catamount Arts programming, etc. knitting, ways of the wild, aviation, lego club, silly scientists, kite flying and making, basket making, mountain biking – repair and safety, lets go fishing, young writers project, architectural design
  - v. Staff includes 2-3 people at Peacham and 3-4 at larger schools in addition to school day teachers, school day staff, volunteers, and contracted services.
  - vi. In addition to an after-school program, there was a summer program in which Peacham students went to Barnet School. Summer program included swim lessons and classes at the beach, field trips such as to owls head, and doing activities at the school.
  - vii. At this point, we are trying to improve the programs – get that academic view of the program and make it really a core educational program in the schools.
  - viii. Funding model:
    - A. Fully funded for 3 years, lose 25% for fourth year, then 50% in fifth year, then can re-apply for 50% funding. Program is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Eventually 20% of the funding will come from PES. The current budget for Peacham is 44,000 for the school year.
  - ix. Currently there are 20 – 25 kids in the program.

- x. Judy wanted to give a public thank you to Liz Ruffner Silvia. She has sat in as an interim coordinator and has done a great job.
  - (b) Ratify the CCSU vote on the teacher's raise and timing of payments
    - i. The School Board approved this at the CCSU board meeting. School Board ratified what School Board agreed to do at the CCSU meeting.
  - (c) Tuition/Reciprocity of a Peacham student with Barnet School
    - i. Parents did not attend this meeting or send formal letter. This is on the agenda for the December meeting.
6. Old Business
- (a) Update on building energy study and next steps
    - i. Cheryl Stevenson emailed Judy today concerning this. Judy will send the email on immediately.
  - (b) Update on school website
    - i. The web designers are almost ready to have something to show the School Board. It will have the same URL and all of the same categories.
7. New Business
- (a) Vote on new Policy-Staff/Student Conduct and Boundaries Discussion
    - i. Mat moves to approve. Wynne seconds. So moved.
  - (b) Summary on VSBA (Vermont School Boards Association) held in October from Jenny
    - i. The take away – questions for board.
      - A. Has your budget failed on the first time for the last 2 years? (no)
      - B. Have you had declining enrollments? (no)
      - C. Are you offering less today than 10 years ago? (no)
      - D. Leadership turnover? (yes)
      - E. Talking about how to cut programs or how to increase learning opportunities for children? (latter)
    - ii. Peacham has not changed statistically in 20 years. Statistics for small schools may not be accurate due to small size of data pool.
    - iii. Are we providing very good educational opportunities in the school?
      - A. Yes. One of the push for regional districts is trying to standardize educational opportunities for students. Peacham's aggregate scores were higher than other schools in the CCSU.
    - iv. Jenny would like to see more data on what percentage of the increase in education costs is our mandated costs compared to costs that are within local control on a State level. No data on that anywhere from VSBA and Jenny thought that was lacking. Jenny will ask VSBA about it.
  - (c) Discussion on the future of Peacham School and alternatives.
    - i. Discussion ensued concerning the possibilities for the future of Peacham School.
  - (d) Review of Finance policies for vote at next meeting
  - (e) Selection of negotiation team
    - i. Wynne will join the negotiation team.
    - ii. Wynne moves to allow Mat and Guy Pierce to do the first round of negotiations. Jenny seconds. So moved.
8. Future Agenda Items
- (a) Thank you cards
  - (b) Website
  - (c) Possible Executive session to discuss Tuition/Reciprocity of a Peacham student with Barnet School
  - (d) Set date for next meeting – Dec 8.
  - (e) Preliminary budget. Mat will provide a flat line budget.

Mark moves to adjourn. Jenny seconds. So moved.